

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
JERONIMO TOLENTINO,

Plaintiff,

-against-

THAI SMILE RESTAURANT CORP.  
(D/B/A TUE THAI FOOD), PRASONG  
PORNPICHAYANURAK, and SUPHAKIT  
SAEUE AKA NICK,

Defendants.

ANALISA TORRES, District Judge:

USDC SDNY  
DOCUMENT  
ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
DOC #:  
DATE FILED: 6/15/2022

20 Civ. 8812 (AT)

**ORDER**

The Court has been advised that the parties have reached a settlement in this Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) case. ECF No. 51.

This action shall not be dismissed with prejudice unless the settlement agreement has been approved by the Court or the Department of Labor (“DOL”). *See Cheeks v. Freeport Pancake House, Inc.*, 796 F.3d 199, 206 (2d Cir. 2015). Accordingly, to the extent the parties seek dismissal with prejudice, they must either file a joint letter motion requesting that the Court approve the settlement agreement or, alternatively, provide documentation of the approval by DOL. Any letter motion, along with the settlement agreement, must be filed on the public docket by **July 13, 2022**. The letter motion must explain why the proposed settlement is fair and reasonable and should discuss, at a minimum, the following factors:

(1) the plaintiff’s range of possible recovery; (2) the extent to which “the settlement will enable the parties to avoid anticipated burdens and expenses in establishing their respective claims and defenses”; (3) the seriousness of the litigation risks faced by the parties; (4) whether “the settlement agreement is the product of arm’s-length bargaining between experienced counsel”; and (5) the possibility of fraud or collusion.

*Wolinsky v. Scholastic Inc.*, 900 F. Supp. 2d 332, 335 (S.D.N.Y. 2012) (quoting *Medley v. Am. Cancer Soc’y*, No. 10 Civ. 3214, 2010 WL 3000028, at \*1 (S.D.N.Y. July 23, 2010)). The letter must also address whether there is a *bona fide* dispute as to the number of hours worked or the amount of compensation due and how much of the proposed settlement plaintiff’s attorney shall be seeking as fees. *See Cheeks*, 796 F.3d at 202, 207.

Any request for attorneys’ fees must be accompanied by supporting documentation. “In this circuit, a proper fee request ‘entails submitting contemporaneous billing records documenting, for each attorney, the date, the hours expended, and the nature of the work done.’” *Lopez v. Nights of Cabiria, LLC*, 96 F. Supp. 3d 170, 181 (S.D.N.Y. 2015) (quoting *Wolinsky*, 900 F. Supp. 2d at 336).

Absent special circumstances, the Court will not approve any settlement agreement that is filed under seal or in redacted form. *See id.* at 177 n. 44. In addition, absent compelling

circumstances, the Court will not approve settlement agreements containing sweeping non-disclosure provisions, *see id.* at 179–80; *Flood v. Carlson Rests. Inc.*, No. 14 Civ. 2740, 2015 WL 4111668, at \*2 (S.D.N.Y. July 6, 2015), or broad releases waiving claims having no relation to FLSA issues, *see Flood*, 2015 WL 4111668, at \*2.

Additionally, the parties are reminded that they may consent to proceed before the Honorable Sarah Netburn, who would then oversee the approval of the settlement. If the parties consent to Judge Netburn’s jurisdiction, by **June 29, 2022**, they shall file a fully executed Notice, Consent, and Reference of a Civil Action to a Magistrate Judge form, available at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/node/754> on the docket. The parties are free to withhold consent without negative consequences.

If the Court approves that form, all further proceedings will then be conducted before Judge Netburn rather than before the undersigned. An information sheet on proceedings before magistrate judges is also attached to this order. Any appeal would be taken directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, as it would be if the consent form were not signed and so ordered.

Any pending motions are moot. All conferences and deadlines are vacated.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 15, 2022  
New York, New York



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ANALISA TORRES  
United States District Judge

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

\_\_\_\_\_ District of \_\_\_\_\_

_____	)	
<i>Plaintiff</i>	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No.
_____	)	
<i>Defendant</i>	)	

## NOTICE, CONSENT, AND REFERENCE OF A CIVIL ACTION TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE

*Notice of a magistrate judge's availability.* A United States magistrate judge of this court is available to conduct all proceedings in this civil action (including a jury or nonjury trial) and to order the entry of a final judgment. The judgment may then be appealed directly to the United States court of appeals like any other judgment of this court. A magistrate judge may exercise this authority only if all parties voluntarily consent.

You may consent to have your case referred to a magistrate judge, or you may withhold your consent without adverse substantive consequences. The name of any party withholding consent will not be revealed to any judge who may otherwise be involved with your case.

*Consent to a magistrate judge's authority.* The following parties consent to have a United States magistrate judge conduct all proceedings in this case including trial, the entry of final judgment, and all post-trial proceedings.

<i>Parties' printed names</i>	<i>Signatures of parties or attorneys</i>	<i>Dates</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## Reference Order

**IT IS ORDERED:** This case is referred to a United States magistrate judge to conduct all proceedings and order the entry of a final judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*District Judge's signature*\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

**Note:** Return this form to the clerk of court only if you are consenting to the exercise of jurisdiction by a United States magistrate judge. Do not return this form to a judge.